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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/044,021	01/11/2002	Kevin W. Haulk	9869.00	8189

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EXAMINER

MCCLELLAN, JAMES S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3627

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/044,021

Applicant(s)

HAULK ET AL.

Examiner

James S. McClellan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Terminal Disclaimer

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on July 12, 2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6,626,359 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.
2. It is noted that claims 1-12 are currently pending.

Withdrawal of Final Rejection

3. Based on a reevaluation of the prior art and an update search, the Examiner has withdrawn the final rejection and established a new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,888,709 (hereinafter "Revesz") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,269,342 (hereinafter "Brick").

Revesz discloses a method of performing a delta update of an electronic shelf label (module 10; see column 3, line 16) comprising the steps of: (a) displaying informational text by the ESL (see column 3, lines 25-30; see also Figure 2a), said ESL including a plurality of

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registers (note that multiple registers 130, 158, 168, etc. are in communication with module memory 154; see Figure 3); (b) providing a first data image stored in a host computer system (store computer 32, see column 3, lines 65-67) comprising the current contents of said plurality of registers; (c) providing a second data image stored in the host computer comprising planned contents of said plurality of registers (see column 4, lines 8-11, new price information is uploaded to store computer 32); (e) transmitting messages to the ESL updating the previously determined registers which need to be updated (see column 4, lines 13-16).

Revesz fails to explicitly disclose the use of comparing current product information and new product information and only updating ESL that have new product information.

Brick teaches the use of comparing current product information and new product information and only updating ESL that have new product information (see column 13, lines 40-60).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Revesz with updating individual ESL based on price comparison as taught by Brick, because updating each ESL individually is more efficient than updating each and every ESL.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

Petteruti et al. is cited of interest for disclosing an ESL system including price updating.

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Brieche is cited of interest for disclosing a subglobal area addressing for electronic price displays.

Matsushita is cited of interest for disclosing an electronic shelf label system.


Haulk et al. is cited of interest for disclosing a method and apparatus for reduced electronic shelf label power consumption.

Rosenfeld is cited of interest for disclosing an electronic shelf label system and method.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James S. McClellan whose telephone number is (571) 272-6786. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


James S McClellan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3627

jsm
8/1/05